

REMARKS

1. Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1 – 3, 6, and 13 – 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being
5 anticipated by Komazaki.

Response

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations ‘determining a shift distance
between the object lens and the center of the pick-up head’ and ‘selectively stopping
10 movement of the pick-up head according to the shift distance before the short seek is
achieved’. Komazaki only discloses moving the pickup head to catch up to the object lens:
‘the pickup 3 needs to be moved in the same direction as the objective lens 4, because the
lens 4 cannot be moved beyond its movable range and the pickup 3 needs to catch up’
[Col.8, lines 10 – 13], and does not disclose stopping movement of the pickup head
15 before the short seek is completed according to the shift distance. As the added limitations
are neither taught nor suggested, applicant believes currently amended Claim 1 should be
found allowable.

Claims 2 – 3

Claims 2 – 3 have been amended to comply with currently amended Claim 1. As
20 these claims are dependent on Claim 1, applicant believes claims 2 – 3 have also been
placed in a position for allowance.

Claim 6

Claim 6 is dependent on currently amended Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim
1 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 6 should also be found allowable.

Claim 13

Claim 13 includes the limitation ‘stopping the sled and the pick-up head when a shift distance is lower than a predetermined range’. The applicant believes this limitation is not disclosed by Komazaki, who discloses ‘if the objective lens 4 is shifted gradually in its position from the center towards the outer rim of the optical disc 2, the pickup 3 needs to be moved in the same direction as the objective lens 4, because the objective lens 4 cannot be moved beyond its movable range’ [Col.3, lines 13 – 17]. As can be seen from the quoted passage, Komazaki discloses a system that **moves** the pickup head when a distance between the pickup head and the objective lens is **greater** than a predetermined range, i.e. movement is actuated depending on a maximum allowable shift distance, but Komazaki does not disclose a system where movement of the pickup head is stopped depending on a predetermined shift distance range. In other words, Claim 13 discloses that the movement of the sled is stopped when the shift distance is within a predetermined range to prevent the sled from moving too fast (paragraphs [30]-[46] of applicant’s disclosure), whereas Komazaki discloses ‘That is, the pickup 3 must catch up to the objective lens 4’ [Col.3, lines 17 – 18]. In short, Claim 13 claims a stopping mechanism of the stepping motor, while Komazaki merely discloses a starting mechanism of the stepping motor. As Komazaki fails to teach or suggest any criteria for stopping the stepping motor, the applicant therefore believes that the limitation of Claim 13 is neither taught nor suggested by Komazaki, and Claim 13 has been placed in a position for allowance.

Claims 14 – 16

Claims 14 – 16 have been amended to add a space after the comma to correct for previous grammatical errors. Claims 14 – 16 are dependent on Claim 13 and should therefore be found allowable if Claim 13 is found allowable.

Claims 1 – 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Kobayashi.

Response

Claim 1

As detailed under the response to Komazaki, Claim 1 has been amended to include
5 limitations that a shift distance between the object lens and the pickup head is determined,
and movement of the pickup head is stopped if the shift distance is **below** a
predetermined distance before the short seek is completed. Such limitations are not taught
by Komazaki, who teaches moving the object lens according to the stepping motor, and
does not teach moving the object lens and the pickup head according to a shift distance
10 between the pickup head and the object lens. As Claim 1 discloses that movement of the
pickup head is according to the stepping motor **and** a shift distance between the pickup
head and the object lens, the applicant asserts that Claim 1 should be found allowable
over the prior art of Kobayashi.

Claims 2 – 4 and 6

15 Claims 2 – 4 and 6 are dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has
been placed in a position for allowance, claims 2 – 4 and 6 should also be found
allowable.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

20 Claims 7 – 12 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Response

The applicant is grateful to the Examiner for the allowance.

Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be

allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Response

Claim 5 has been amended to comply with currently amended Claim 1. Claim 5 is dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has been found allowable over
5 both the prior art of Komazaki and the prior art of Kobayashi, Claim 5 should also be found allowable.

3. New claims

Claim 17

10 Claim 17 includes the original limitations of Claim 13 and also includes the limitations that the sled is stopped 'when the shift distance is lower than the predetermined range and the object lens has not reached the target position' and the sled is moved 'if a shift distance is greater than a predetermined range and the object lens has not reached a target position'. As neither Kobayashi nor Komazaki disclose **stopping** the
15 pickup head before the short seek is completed if a distance between the object lens and the pickup head is **smaller** than a predetermined shift distance, the applicant believes new Claim 17 should be found allowable.

Claim 18

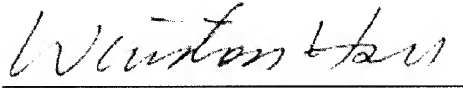
Claim 18 is a method claim that includes the limitations of original claims 1, 3
20 and 5. As stated in the previous Office Action, Claim 5 would be found allowable if written in independent form including limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, the applicant believes new Claim 18 should be found allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Appl. No. 10/711,507
Amdt. dated March 16, 2007
Reply to Office action of December 18, 2006

Sincerely yours,



Date: 03/16/2007

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